

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

INRE-00 NSAE-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY D/PW:FSIEVERTS:NEA:ALATHERTON, JR./HLK

APPROVED BY NEA - JOSEPH J. SISCO

S/S - MR. PICKERING

S:LEAGLEBURGER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 209518

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: XF

SUBJECT: ARAB-ISRAELI POW RELEASES

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, DURING MOSCOW TALKS SECRETARY RAISED WITH SOVIETS IMPORTANCE OF EARLY AND TOTAL EXCHANGE OF POWS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ARAB STATES. WHILE NOT INCLUDED IN U.S.-SOVIET SPONSORED SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION, WE AND SOVIETS AGREED TO USE OUR INFLUENCE AS MATTERS OF FIRST PRIORITY TO ENCOURAGE EARLY (E.G., WITHIN 72 HOURS) AND COMPLETE POW EXCHANGE.

2. DURING TALKS IN ISRAEL ON ROUTE BACK FROM MOSCOW, IT WAS APPARENT THAT ISRAELIS ATTACH HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO THIS AND THAT PROSPECTS FOR STABILIZING CEASEFIRE AND MOVING INTO ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE SERIOUSLY IMPEDED IF POW EXCHANGE BECOMES A MAJOR ISSUE. ISRAELIS
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ARE CLEARLY PREPARED FOR EARLY AND COMPLETE EXCHANGE, AND BIG QUESTION IS WHETHER SYRIANS AND EGYPTIANS ARE SIMILARLY PREPARED.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: YOU SHOULD INFORM GALLOPIN,

PRESIDENT OF ICRC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, OF FOREGOING IN

STRICTEST CONFIDENCE AND INDICATE USG READINESS TO WORK
WITH ICRC TO BRING ABOUT EARLY AND COMPLETE POW RE-
LEASES ON BOTH SIDES. YOU SHOULD TELL ICRC WE WOULD
APPRECIATE HEARING FROM THEM IF THEY ENCOUNTER
DIFFICULTIES WITH EITHER SIDE IN RESOLVING THIS ISSUE,
AS WELL AS ANY INFORMATION ON STEPS UNDERWAY RE POW
RELEASES. HAS EITHER SIDE YET TAKEN ANY STEPS WITH
ICRC TO GET POW RELEASES GOING? KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE209518
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: D/PW:FSIEVERTS:NEA:ALATHERTON, JR./HLK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 - GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750020-0765
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731066/abqcejfl.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Sep-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <04-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARAB-ISRAELI POW RELEASES
TAGS: MOPS, UR, XF
To: GENEVA INFO TEL AVIV
CAIRO
MOSCOW
USUN N Y
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005